

Teachers ask for moratorium on re-organization of staff

Halton County teachers packed the board room of the Halton County Board of Education Feb. 15 to hear president of Halton OSSTF Tom Ramautarsingh and Halton Elementary Teachers Association President Joan Thibault express the concerns of teachers across the county about the board's plans for major changes in the staff organization.

In his presentation Ramautarsingh called for a two year moratorium on the acceptance of the Staff Organization and Differential Staffing report. He said two years would allow thorough evaluation of the existing structure in each secondary school to be done by a committee of trustees and secondary teachers appointed by the District Executive of OSSTF.

The president questioned whether or not there would be any educational value to be received by implementing the recommendations in the report.

Both Ramautarsingh and Mrs. Thibault expressed concern about the use of para professionals. Ramautarsingh said OSSTF did not oppose the hiring of para professionals but asked for some clarification.

assistance what would be the policy of the Board? This question arises not only out of the Federation's concern for job-protection, but rather from the more fundamental concern as to whether or not the Board regards the contact between professional teachers and students as more important in the educational context than contact between students and lay men," he said.

Mrs. Thibault claimed the use of para professionals was the chief area of concern for the HETA.

HETA agrees with the concept of a redeployment of teaching personnel and the involvement of a greater number of adults in teaching and non-teaching roles. It must be kept in mind that the plan for differentiated staffing outlined in the brief is only one alternative and other patterns of staffing must be investigated before any decisions are made at the local level.

Any change in the staffing pattern should be made by local initiative as suggested in the brief. Staff members and the community must be involved in the decision making process regarding the implementation of structures involving the use of para-professionals.

After considerable discussion the board defeated two and passed four of the six recommendations they dealt with at the meeting Thursday.

The board defeated the

following:

-That the three area chairmen among the assistant superintendents be selected, be given more authority, and be given a new role definition which requires more exercise of executive leadership in the area.

-That, as a policy, successful principals should remain with their schools for four years in elementary schools and for eight years in secondary schools, unless the good of the system as a whole or the specific request of the principal for transfer dictates consideration of earlier changes.

The following motions were adopted:

-That we stabilize the situation of autonomy and accountability of the principal in their present forms in order to allow practice to develop more closely to theory.

-That vice-principals before appointment to principal should have: undertaken definite leadership training or have revealed outstanding leadership qualities; been exercised in both the program and instruction sides; the principal's role; held a position of responsibility in two or more schools and given evidence of experience or involvement in both panels or give evidence of other accomplishments which satisfy the intent of these concepts.

-That the present practice of cross-posting principals and vice-principals between panels for stated periods of times be continued and expanded.

-That the present system of paying assistant superintendents on the basis of merit modified by experience be continued.

To date only non-contentious issues have been handled by the board. Some of the controversial issues yet to be dealt with include

Local women speak at Day of Prayer

Two women from the local Pentecostal Assembly will be speakers Friday when women from five Milton churches hold

the annual World Day of Prayer service at the Pentecostal Highway Gospel Church on Ontario St. S.

a stepping up in the hiring of para-professionals, the elimination of minor department heads, the phasing out of assistant department heads and a reduction in the number of department heads by placing fewer under groupings of subjects.

Director Jim Singleton has said the board must either get the same program for less money or more program for the same money. Many of the recommendations in his brief if adopted are expected to cut expenses.

Mrs. Berna Rutan will speak at the afternoon children's service and Mrs. Ruth Ann Crawford will speak at the two adult services. Services are scheduled at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. for adults, with the special children's service at 4:30 p.m.

Men are also invited to participate. This year's service of worship was developed by a group of New Zealand women. The day of prayer is being observed in over 160 countries around the globe. Local Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, United, Presbyterian and Anglican congregations are participating this year, and a joint choir will sing.

"Never on Sunday" council tells racers

There will be no Sunday racing at Toronto International Dragway this summer.

Esqueusing Council has turned down a request from solicitors for the dragway operators to amend its racing by-laws to permit Sunday meets from May 1 until September 30 and from Monday to Thursday nights inclusive to 11.30 p.m. Permission to have gates open earlier than 11.30 on Sundays was also requested.

A resolution read at Monday night's council meeting stated simply that township by-laws 29-70 and 16-71 will not be amended as requested.

Copies of the resolution are to be sent to Peter Bowman, Dennison Denny, Ellis Taylor, Charles Thomson, Charles Hildebrandt, G. B. Fisher and Alan Taneman all of whom expressed concern to council about the requested amendments.

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Boundary line confusing

The number of suggestions that have been made regarding boundary lines for the proposed regional municipality of Halton may have even Halton M.P. Terry O'Connor confused.

Mr. O'Connor recently addressed a letter of enquiry to the town of Georgetown, after receiving a letter from Norval resident, Mrs. Murray Coe, asking for his intervention in a dispute with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. Mr. O'Connor's letter was eventually passed on to Esqueusing clerk-treasurer Delmar French by the town of Georgetown engineering department.

"It's got me baffled why an M.F. would send a letter to the town of Georgetown about property in Esqueusing," Reeve Tom Hill commented at last week's council meeting.

"Mr. O'Connor isn't too sure of his boundary lines," added Councillor Dick Howitt.

"He can't be," the reeve replied.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

John came, baptized in the wilderness and preached the baptism of repentance unto remission of sins. How did John get his name? His father said, "His name is John", but his work was that of baptizing. Just as one man was called "Elymas the sorcerer" (Acts 13:8), and another was called "Alexander the coppersmith" (1 Tim. 4:14), so this John was called by his work, John the Baptizer (Baptist).

Now the disciples of Jesus baptized even more than did John (John 4:1) Yet the scriptures do not record that they were called after their work of baptizing as was John. That name was applied only to John personally and never to any other person, and never to the New Testament church.

The disciples of Jesus were called "disciples" (John 4:1-2) and "Christians" (Acts 11:26). They believed in the necessity of faith but were not called "Faithists", they believed in baptism, but were not called by that doctrine. The name that God gave to them honored Christ. "If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed but LET HIM GLORIFY GOD IN THIS NAME." (1 Peter 4:16).

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Obituary

A.L. Chambers

Albert Louis Chambers, 93, of 62 Charles St., Milton died Feb. 15 at Milton District Hospital after suffering from a brief illness.

Mr. Chambers was born on Mar. 2, 1878 at Pontypool, near Peterborough. He worked as a banker in Peterborough until 1906 when he moved to Milton. He purchased a bakery that once stood on Main St. where the west end of the Ledwith's store now stands. He owned and operated his bakery for 30 years.

Mr. Chambers was a member of the I.O.O.F. for 58 years as well as serving on the Milton Fire Department and the Halton Agricultural Society. He served several years on Milton Council until he became Mayor for a one-year term in 1939.

Loved horses
Eventually he retired from

council and devoted most of his time to his horses. In 1926 he owned and raced Jane Gratton, the biggest money winner on the circuit.

Mr. Chambers once held top chair in the local Orange Lodge. He was predeceased by his wife Alberta P. Neville. Mr. Chambers was one of 12 children of Mr. and Mrs. James Chambers.

Mr. Chambers is survived by his sons Willmott of Milton and Louis of Niagara Falls, Ontario. James McLennan, George Brady, Ivan Clarridge, George Chapman, Allenby Jakeman and Dean Johnston were pallbearers.

The funeral service was held at the McKersie Funeral Home in Milton with Rev. Charles Hainer officiating. Interment was at Evergreen Cemetery.



A FORMER MAYOR of Milton and a devoted horse lover, A. L. Chambers, age 93, died on Feb. 15. Mr. Chambers maintained his love for good horses throughout his life. He is pictured with one of the horses he trained at Milton Fair Grounds.

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